

STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF EDMONSTON, MARYLAND
FOR RELEASE ON APRIL 20, 2015, BY AUTHORITY OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
RODNEY BARNES

A report was issued on WTOP today concerning a parking ticket issued to a Town official for invalid tags due to failure of the vehicle to pass a State of Maryland emissions inspection. The report stated that the vehicle was parked at Elizabeth's Landing, a private complex that is the residence of the Town official. The ticket was issued in January, 2014, when the official was a Town Councilmember, but was not paid until the morning of March 6, 2015, prior to any contact by WTOP or its representatives concerning the citation.

Elizabeth's Landing and its parking facilities are located on private property. Town police do not have jurisdiction to issue parking tickets on private property unless authorized by the owner. The Elizabeth's Landing Homeowner's Association in 2011 authorized the Town's police to act on behalf of the Association in incidents involving loitering, trespassing or illegally parking on the private property through a Property Owner's Agreement. At that time, the Association's concerns largely related to vehicles being parked and stored on the property by residents of an adjacent development, Fountain Park. Either party, the Town or the Home Owner's Association, could end the Agreement at any time for any reason with thirty days' notice.

The Agreement resulted in parking citations being issued to both residents and non-residents of Elizabeth's Landing. The Police Department received complaints from Elizabeth's Landing residents about issuance of tickets for parking in their own lot at their own homes. The Town and its Police Department must take the interest of its residents into account when spending tax dollars enforcing parking laws on private property, which is not required by law. A determination was made in August, 2014, to end enforcement of parking restrictions at Elizabeth's Landing, with the exception of fire hydrant and fire lane violations, which are direct health and safety related issues.

We wish to reassure all of our residents that the Town continues to fully enforce its parking laws on public streets and rights of way, as it is required to do.

A question was raised as to whether the Chief of Police has improperly been issued a "confidential" tag for use on a Town owned unmarked vehicle that is assigned to the Chief for Police Department business. The tag was issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration for use on this vehicle. The Town denies any allegation that this tag was intended to shield the Chief or any other Police Department member from automated traffic enforcement or that its use has been improper.